

## Why He Came

– *And we know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. (1 Jn 3:5)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of *grace* and truth.” (Jn 1:1,14) Jesus Christ came in the flesh over two thousand years ago to bring us the realization of God’s grace and truth; (Jn 1:17) for “in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Col 2:9) Paul speaks of this grace in the second chapter of the epistle to Titus: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.” (Tit 2:11-13) I would like to share about the hope we have in this grace that was brought to us, and is still being brought to us, at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Pet 1:13) My prayer is that we will come to an understanding of, and believe in our hearts, the reason why Jesus came to earth; and as a result, be able to fully receive His wonderful grace and be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Tit 3:7)

The word of God says that Jesus appeared and “gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” (Tit 2:14) As one brother pointed out, the first promise in the New Testament is that Jesus will “save His people from their sins.” (Matt 1:21) Jesus Christ came for this purpose, to save us *from* our sins and save us from the wrath of God. (Rom 5:9). The apostle John also shares this revelation when he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!” (Jn 1:29) This amazing, life-changing truth of the gospel is only possible through Jesus’ precious blood. “Now once at the consummation of the ages He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Heb 9:26) “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.” (Heb 13:12) It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats (our own sacrifices and efforts) to take away sins. (Heb 10:4) But, the blood of Jesus can reconcile us back to God and present us before Him holy, blameless and beyond reproach. (Col 1:23)

Not only did Jesus come to be a merciful and faithful High Priest, to make propitiation (atonement) for our sins; (Heb 2:17) but He also came to present us holy and blameless before God. In the fifth chapter of the epistle to the Ephesians, Paul exhorts husbands to love their wives “just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing by the water of the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.” (Eph 5:25-28) This work of grace is only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, as we submit to His dealings and leading in our lives—it is not by might nor by power, but by His Spirit. (Zec 4:6) “For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (Rom 8:3, 4) This is our hope and stay—Christ in us, the hope of glory. As we are led by the Spirit of God to put to death the deeds of the flesh, (Rom 8:13) we are being sanctified and are being made holy—for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Pet 1:16)

It is only through Jesus Christ that we obtain our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand. Therefore, let us exalt (rejoice) in hope of the glory of God (Rom 5:2) and press on in order that we may “lay hold of that for which also we were laid hold of by Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:12) Now to Him who is able to establish you according to the gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but *now is* manifested ... leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. (Rom 16:25-27)

– *The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn 3:8b)*

Amen